



Education Quality and
Policy Office

University of Cambridge logo

Document cover sheet

Title	Recording of Teaching Materials/Lectures and Other Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Activities
Purpose	To outline the usage and management of recordings or other digital material for the purposes of teaching, learning and assessment
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Approved by	Jane Clare
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Comment	Added section on recording of online digital assessments and rationalised data protection wording.

Policy on the Recording of Teaching Materials/Lectures and Other Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Activities

Introduction

This policy is concerned with materials prepared for and used in the teaching, learning and assessment of the University's students, including:

- Recordings of lectures/teaching material prepared by university staff members; this includes pre-recorded lectures and teaching content;
- Recordings of teaching/learning sessions (supervisions, small-group teaching, seminars, classes and practicals, or any other form of interactive teaching);
- Recordings of student submissions for formative or summative assessment;
- Recording of invigilated digital examinations.

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1. General principles

1.1 The Policy applies to:

- university staff members (including College Teaching Officers and College Research Fellows) and to registered students of the University, in accordance with the University's Intellectual Property Rights (IP) Policy in [CHAPTER XIII - Cambridge Statutes and Ordinances, 2024 edition](#) Page 1077), as amended and republished from time to time.
- the use of teaching/learning/assessment materials for registered students of the University.

1.2 References to “teaching materials”, “learning materials” and “assessment materials” include both traditional and digital materials, and may include, for example, digital quizzes, electronic documents and recordings prepared by university staff members and students.

1.3 This policy and its procedures:

- are technology neutral, applying to recordings of teaching/learning/assessment materials irrespective of device or technology used for the recording and dissemination of those materials.
 - do not place any geographical or temporal limitations on the preparation of teaching and other materials.
- 1.4 By law and under the terms of the IP Policy, staff members and students who make and/or feature or participate in a recording governed by this policy may each hold some intellectual property rights in the recording. The University may be deemed, at least in part, the producer and director of some recordings, with staff members and students holding performers' rights to their performances and copyright and related rights in their respective contributions. In a collaborative spirit, these rights are retained by the respective rights holders who license the University to use the recordings for the defined purposes set out in this policy. Specific procedures regarding consent are set out in this policy in the sections for each activity.
- 1.5 Where permitted, access to recordings is provided via the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), currently Moodle, or by other University-authorised restricted-access platforms or VLEs.
- 1.6 Recordings of teaching activities, especially involving any form of interactive teaching with student participation or any form of assessment, may not be used for any purpose other than the defined purposes in this policy without further agreement from all participants/rights holders in the recording.
- 1.7 Personal data processed in the exercise of the educational objectives of the University under this policy are managed in line with the University's data protection policy and procedures. Data protection information and privacy notices are available at [Data Protection | Information Compliance](#).
- The University deems the recording of teaching/learning/assessment materials to form part of the University's public interest tasks and legitimate interests in furthering the educational objectives of the institution. Information of data protection requirements for each form of recording in this policy can be found at [Appendix A](#).
- 1.8 Recordings of activities governed by this policy are retained, stored and destroyed in line with the University's [Statement of Records Management Practice and Master Records Retention Schedule](#), and in the case of summative assessments, by individual Faculty Board retention policies in line with the [Examinations data retention guidance \(cam.ac.uk\)](#). Specific procedures regarding consent are set out in this policy in the sections for each activity.
- 1.9 Staff members and students should ensure that recordings do not:
- infringe the intellectual property rights, including copyright, of any third party;

- contain any restricted information in actionable breach of confidence or in breach of data protection law¹;
 - constitute a breach of publishing or collaboration or other agreement that governs research or work at the University or elsewhere.²
- 1.10 This policy does not affect the rights of disabled students to record as a reasonable adjustment under their Student Support Document (SSD), provided that they comply with the rules and restrictions set down by the University and issued by the Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre (ADRC).³ Staff members who have chosen not to consent to the recording of their lecture(s)/teaching materials should still permit individual disabled students to make recordings if this is recommended in their SSD.
- 1.11 Students are permitted to use recordings only for their own private study and non-commercial research. Students may be required to agree to a usage policy at the point of access of recordings; students in breach of the usage policy may be subject to disciplinary proceedings.
- 1.12 Recordings will not be used for staff performance management. However, individual members of staff may use the recordings of their teaching for self-reflection and enhancement of their own teaching.
- 1.13 Recordings are not intended to be used for continuing professional development or career progression.
- 1.14 Recordings may be used for university research to improve student access to lectures and other teaching material, for example, in improving captioning and transcription techniques.

2. Recordings of lectures/teaching materials

- 2.1 The University's IP Policy states that copyright arising from activities undertaken by a university staff member in the course of their employment belongs to the staff member and is applicable to copyright and moral rights in literary, artistic, dramatic and musical works, and performers' rights. (Regulation 7). For clarity, when consent is given to a recording this extends to the making of the recording and the performance thereof, for the specific uses as set out in this policy.
- 2.2 Under the IP Policy, in relation to teaching materials prepared by a University staff member for use in the teaching primarily of the University's students (unless the Faculty Board or other body responsible for teaching has agreed explicitly to the

¹ Data Protection information via the Information Compliance Office:
<https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection>

² Copyright information via the Legal Services Division:
<https://www.legal.admin.cam.ac.uk/copyright-compliance>

³ [Accessibility and disability services | University of Cambridge](#)

contrary) the University has a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual licence to use the material for teaching in the University (Regulation 30).

- 2.3 External guest lecturers (or their employer where appropriate) are required to agree to the terms of the [University Guest Lecturer Consent Form](#) for the consent, making and use of their recordings for the specific uses set out in this policy, *before* recordings may be made. They agree to grant the University a non-exclusive licence to use their teaching materials/recordings for the primary purpose set out in 2.4 below.
- 2.4 In the first instance, recordings of lectures/teaching materials associated with specific modules or courses of study are made available for use by the cohort of students, or individuals within the cohort, for which the recordings are prepared. Use in other modules/course sections or otherwise is at the discretion of the staff member who prepared the material, and other participants in the recording, if applicable. Individual Faculty Boards may set limits on the reuse of material within the courses for which they hold responsibility.
- 2.5 Excluding Commissioned Teaching/Learning Works (defined in 2.8 below), other uses of recordings of lectures/teaching materials, for example, for use in external facing outreach activities of the University, may require additional consent and permission from rights holders in the recordings and/or in underlying materials. This ensures compliance with copyright law regarding use of any third party materials included in the recordings, as well as the UK GDPR.
- 2.6 “Commissioned Teaching/Learning Works” are works the University has specifically requested a University staff member to produce which do not fall within the staff member’s agreed employment terms, whether in return for special payment or not, and whether or not the Commissioned Teaching/Learning Works consist of and/or include teaching material/underlying works owned by the contributing staff member. Terms regarding contributions to Commissioned Teaching/Learning Works may be agreed on a separate case-by-case basis between the University and the staff member concerned, for example, to match the University’s legal commitments in agreements with third parties for the teaching of non-registered students.

3. Recordings of teaching sessions

- 3.1 For the purposes of this policy, University staff members and students grant to the University a non-exclusive licence to make their recorded content and performance in a teaching session (including supervisions, small-group teaching, seminars and practicals) available to the University staff member in charge of the session and other students registered on the relevant module, session or course of study or supervision group as appropriate, unless the Faculty Board or other body responsible for teaching has agreed explicitly to the contrary. For clarity, when consent is given

to a recording this extends to the making of the recording and the performance thereof, for the specific uses as set out in this policy.

3.2 Recordings of teaching sessions (supervisions, small-group teaching, seminars, classes and practicals) associated with specific modules or courses of study are made available for use by the cohort of students, or individuals within the cohort as appropriate, for the purpose for which the recordings are prepared.

3.3 Recordings of teaching sessions, including excerpts, are not for wider release, including use by the general public.

4. Assessment Recordings

4.1 Recordings for assessment may be made by staff and/or students as determined by their respective Faculty or Department (with the exception of section 5 below).

4.2 For the purposes of this policy, University staff members and students grant to the University a non-exclusive licence to make their recorded content and performance in a summative assessment available to the University staff member and examiners as determined by their respective Faculty Board or Degree Committee. For clarity, when consent is given to a recording this extends to the making of the recording and the performance thereof, for the specific uses as set out in this policy.

5. Screen recordings for in person invigilated digital examinations

5.1 **Please note** that in person invigilated exams will be hosted by Inspira for 2025/26. Further information may be found at [Exam Operations guide to in person invigilated examinations.](#)

Data protection requirements for the recording of teaching/ learning/ assessment materials

Appendix A

Lectures/ teaching materials	Teaching sessions	Assessments (including in person examinations)
<p>Under data protection legislation this is deemed by the University as public interest tasks and legitimate interests in furthering the educational objectives of the institution.</p> <p>Consent is not required if all of the following are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the participant's contributions are optional, not expected, or otherwise not required to meet the learning objectives of the session; the participant has been notified in advance that the session will be recorded; and the participant has been notified that they have the right to object to being recorded, and informed of what action, if any, they may take to avoid being recorded. <p>Consent to process any personal data in a recording must be obtained from any participant where all the above conditions are not met. This consent may be obtained verbally or in writing. It is the lecturer/session leader's responsibility to maintain a record of this consent (including a note of consents given verbally).</p>	<p>For any form of interactive teaching involving the expectation of, or requirement for, student contribution, consent by all participants is required. This consent may be obtained verbally or in writing. It is the responsibility of the lecturer or session leader to maintain a record of this consent (including a note of consents given verbally).</p> <p>Where the session is deemed not to require participation, consent is not required if all of the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the participant's contributions are optional, not expected, or otherwise not required to meet the learning objectives of the session; the participant has been notified in advance that the session will be recorded; and the participant has been notified that they have the right to object to being recorded, and informed of what action, if any, they may take to avoid being recorded. 	<p>Under data protection legislation this is deemed by the University as public interest tasks and legitimate interests in furthering the educational objectives of the institution. If both of the following conditions are met, then a participant's consent is not required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the participant has been notified in advance that the examination or submission will be recorded; the participant has been notified that they have the right to object to being recorded, and informed of what action, if any, they may take to avoid being recorded. <p>Consent to process any personal data in a recording must be obtained from any participant where both above conditions are not met. This consent may be obtained verbally or in writing. It is the examiner or student responsibility to maintain a record of this consent (including a note of consents given verbally), depending on who is making the recording. Recordings for assessment must only be accessible for the explicit purpose they were originally produced.</p>